



*CHAPTER CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
for Dirigo e-Sams; An 'On-Line' Chapter*

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I-NAME

As Chartered by the International Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club, this Chapter shall be known as **Dirigo e-Sams Intl.** and was organized on **9-25-09**. The aforementioned shall recognize the International Good Sam Club's Constitution and By-Laws as their ultimate body of law.

The **Dirigo e-Sams Intl.** will always use the terminology "Chapter" when referring to its organization. The term Club always means the International Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club.

This Chapter will only use the Good Sam name and logo in good taste and to promote the Good Sam Pledge and Chapter activities and in a manner consistent with the Club Constitution, By-Laws and General policies of the Club. The Chapter agrees to cease and desist from all use of the Good Sam name and logo upon loss of its charter from the Club for any reason.

The Dirigo e-Sams Intl. Chapter will use for it's primary membership portal 'The Maine Good Sam Club 'Facebook' Virtual On-Line Chapter' and www.MaineGoodSams.org (or a subweb thereof)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Chapter to operate a social organization to promote the use and enjoyment of recreational vehicles, share and promote the Samaritan Spirit in all aspects of the community, and promote outdoor fellowship among its members through trips, knowledge sharing, and group activities. This Chapter shall maintain an attitude, which is strictly non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-sectional, and non-racial, and shall be dedicated to bringing together people interested in the ideals and principles of the International Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club.

This Chapter is founded on the principle that the internet (and other electronic media) may be used to better unite Good Sam Club members who are otherwise considered At Large.

This 'Virtual' Chapter is to be considered a supplement to an existing network structure.

At all times, the concerns and needs of a traditional person to person Chapters supersede those of Dirigo e-Sams Intl.

Members of this chapter are expected to participate and/or be supportive of the annual Maine Good Sam Club Samborees

ARTICLE III - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All people who are members in good standing with the International Good Sam Club, and who are interested in the promotion of good recreational vehicle camping and the purpose for which this Chapter was formed, are eligible for membership.

Section 2. Each membership includes only one couple or single, and any dependent children living with them.

ARTICLE IV - CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of this Chapter shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Wagonmaster, and Legislative Representative, and such additional officers as deemed necessary by members of this Chapter.

Section 2. All officers will be elected at an annual Chapter meeting, and will hold office for **1(one)** year(s).

ARTICLE V – EMBLEM

The Chapter emblem must include either the words "Good Sam" or include a reasonable facsimile of the Good Sam logo, in order for it to meet the requirements established by the International Good Sam Club. Your State Director must approve the emblem before it is recognized as official.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made only with the approval of a three quarters (3/4) vote by the membership of this Chapter.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All members of this Chapter must be members in good standing with the International Good Sam Club (and must annually report their Club membership number to the Chapter Secretary, as evidence thereof.)

Section 2. Each membership includes only one couple or single, and any dependent children living with them.

STRIKE SECTION 3 **Section 3.** Applicant must attend at least two Chapter campouts before submitting application, which will be voted on at the next regular meeting. Applicant will be notified by mail of acceptance or rejection of membership.

STRIKE SECTION 4 **Section 4.** For those members who no longer own an RV, the active members may elect them to an Associate or Honorary membership which allows them to still enjoy the social aspect of a chapter. They may not hold office or vote; they need not pay full chapter dues, only enough to cover the various mailings. They must retain their membership in the International Good Sam Club.

Section 5. There will be an annual assessment of the task of recruiting 1(ONE) new Chapter membership STRIKE(, and thereafter by a designated date.)

Section 6. Members failing to maintain a regular presence in the form of acknowledging correspondence, participating in 'chat sessions', or submitting information by email or phone, without acceptable excuse (i.e. illness, employment, travel, family obligations) shall be dropped from the Chapter roll at the end of the year. Reinstatement shall be treated the same as new applicants.

Section 7. Membership in the **Dirigo e-Sams Intl.Chapter** shall be unlimited. This Chapter will not impose any geographic limitations to Good Sam Members in good standing.

Section 8. The conduct of each Chapter member during Chapter activities shall be at all times a credit to the Chapter and to the International Good Sam Club.

Section 9. Membership in this Chapter will be forfeited for failure to comply with above stated requirements. Individuals shall be notified in writing, signed by three elected Chapter officers, that his/her Chapter membership has been terminated, listing the cause.

Section 10. Membership in this Chapter will be reinstated by unanimous agreement of the elected Chapter officers who originally signed the termination letter, provided that the original cause for forfeiture is removed.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP IN THE STATE COMMITTEE

Each local Chapter is authorized to act with other local Chapters within the same State to form a State Committee. The State Committee is composed of one Chapter President, or his/her appointed delegate, from each Chapter in the same State, and has the voting power to reconcile serious disputes within the State and in any Chapter within the State, and to establish, regulate, and control a State treasury, including the right to levy a reasonable fee to be paid to the State treasury by all Chapter members within the State. **It is the Chapter's responsibility to have a delegate present at all scheduled State committee meetings.** Each Chapter must fully participate in the State committee and meet all requirements thereof

ARTICLE III – DUES

Section 1. Chapter dues shall be established by a **2/3rds** majority vote of all Chapter members.

Section 2. State Dues - If the State Committee of which this Chapter is a member has established State dues, said Chapter members will be required to pay such annually.

ARTICLE IV – VOTING

Section 1. Each family membership (unit) shall be entitled to **1(one)** vote (s), except the President, who shall only vote to break a tie. Associate or Honorary members are not allowed to vote. All voting for Chapter officers (and new members) shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. A quorum at any individual meeting shall be **10 or more** Chapter members in good standing.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings shall be held on the **First** week of each month or as voted by a majority of members at monthly meetings.

Monthly meetings may be held in a virtual format such as on-line chat, email bulletin boards, or other suitable internet technology.

Section 2. The Chapter president at his/her discretion may call special meetings.

Section 3. When in person meetings are conducted Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all business meetings, which will be conducted as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Introduction of guests
4. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
5. Treasurer's report - presentation of bills
6. Reading of correspondence
7. Reports of committees
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The following Chapter officers will be elected at an annual Chapter meeting, and will hold office for **1(one)** year(s): President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Wagonmaster, Legislative Representative (optional), Publicity Chairman (optional).

Section 2. Nominations and elections shall be held in **September**. New officers will take office in **October**.

Section 3. Election Committee - The Chapter President shall appoint a committee of not more than five (5), but not less than three (3), Chapter members (not currently Chapter officers) to prepare ballots and tally election votes.

Section 4. Any Chapter member can make nominations in good standing, either in person at the designated meeting or in writing to the Chapter President before the date of the designated election meeting.

Section 5. Elections - All Chapter members in good standing are entitled to vote. After nominations have been made, the voting shall take place by a written **or email** ballot supplied to each member in good standing. (Absentee ballots must be made available to absentee members.) All ballots must be returned to the election committee by a previously established date in order to be considered valid. The ballots will be tallied and the results reported at the next scheduled Chapter meeting.

Section 6. No officer may hold **STRIKE** (the same office for more than two consecutive terms or) more than one office concurrently.

Section 7. Members of the same family may not hold any of the above elected positions concurrently or hold any other position in the Club, Region or Chapter concurrently unless special permission is obtained from Club Headquarters.

Section 8. Roster of Newly Elected Officers and all Chapter members must be sent annually to International Headquarters and to the State Director.

Section 9. Vacancies - In the event of the resignation or removal of a Chapter officer, the president may, at his/her discretion, with the approval of the other members of the Executive Committee, appoint a pro tem officer to fill the vacancy until the next scheduled election or until a special election can be held.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Presides at all meetings; appoints all committees, supervises all Chapter activities; represents the Chapter as a member of the State Committee at quarterly State Committee meetings.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Conducts meetings in the absence of the president, coordinates activities of all committees.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Chapter with the time and place of the meeting, how called or authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at Chapter meetings, number of members present at membership meetings and the proceedings thereof. Receives, reads, and answers all correspondence after action taken by the membership at meetings, or at the direction of the Chapter President.

The Secretary will provide reporting of collective ideas obtained via the internet in a manner that members may review and exchange ideas as to formulate actions.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be elected by the Chapter members and shall have custody of all funds, securities, and assets of the Chapter; shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements, and report to Chapter members all such receipts and disbursements made on a monthly basis. The Treasurer shall forward a copy of a quarterly itemized Financial Report to the Executive Committee.

A committee will be appointed by the Chapter president to audit the accounts of the Treasurer at least once annually and submit their report of findings to the membership.

***See By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 4**

WAGONMASTER: Responsible for organizing Chapter campouts under the direction of the Chapter President, and includes responsibility for selecting campout sites, making all necessary arrangements for outings, arranging tours and activities at campouts; responsible for appointing a trail boss or committee to assist with parking, collecting fees, coordinating activities at campouts.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee will consist of all elected Chapter officers.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE: Responsible for keeping track of potential laws affecting RV owners in Chapter's geographical area, and notifying Chapter officers and

International Headquarters of such, and other duties as required. (Optional elected or appointed officer).

PUBLICITY STRIKE (CHAIRMAN:Responsible for submitting news of Chapter activities to the State Director for Highways publication)| **All members are responsible for generating publicity for Chapter from local media; and other duties as required.**

ARTICLE VIII - CHAPTER TREASURY

Section 1. All moneys received by the Chapter from dues or any other sources shall go into the Chapter treasury.

Section 2. All expenditures of moneys from the Chapter treasury shall be ratified by the membership at a regular business meeting. The Chapter President may authorize extraordinary expenditures requiring immediate action after telephone conference with the Executive Committee.

Section 3. All disbursements from the Chapter treasury shall be by check, co-signed by the Treasurer and Chapter president, after ratification by the membership. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the President in cases where the expenditure is for less than one dollar. These disbursements may be made from available cash on hand, but will be duly recorded in the financial records of the Chapter.

Section 4. The President shall appoint two members of the Chapter (non-officers) to act as an audit committee, with the President acting as Chairman. This audit will be conducted annually in conjunction with the relief of outgoing officers and installation of new officers. It will be carried out regardless of whether the treasurer is re-elected. The outgoing and incoming treasurer will participate in this annual audit to attest to his or her own satisfaction as to the validity of the audit. Special audits shall be initiated by the President whenever a change in the Chapter occurs.*

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

The President shall be empowered to appoint such special committees as he/she deems needful at any time, or on the majority vote of the members at any meeting, he shall appoint committees as they direct.

ARTICLE X – DISBANDMENT

Section 1. The Executive Committee must notify the State Director and all members listed on the current Chapter roster, and in writing of the Chapter's intention to disband, unless objection is voiced by Chapter members to both the State Director and the Executive Committee within thirty days of receipt of letter.

Section 2. Upon official dissolution of Chapter, the Chapter Charter must be forwarded to the State Director, to be returned to International Headquarters.

Section 3. If this Chapter should decide to disband, all moneys still left in the Chapter treasury shall be distributed as follows: (contributed to a charitable organization of the Chapter's choosing.)

ARTICLE XI - STANDING RULES

